WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of authenticating a channel authorization using a NAD (Network Access Device) in a combined broadcasting and communication system having a plurality of STBs (Set Top Boxes) for receiving a broadcasting, an OLT (Optical Line Terminal)/ONU (Optical Network Unit) for transferring a broadcasting stream to the STBs, and an AAA (Authentication, Authorization and Accounting) server for a channel authentication, the method comprising:

a first step of providing the NAD in the ONU to determine whether to switch the broadcasting stream to the STBs;

a second step of initializing the NAD by receiving and storing authentication information of the channel authorization from the AAA server;

a third step of the NAD performing an authentication using the stored authentication information in response to a channel request from the STB and switching to the requested channel after the authentication; and

a fourth step of changing and storing the authentication information of the channel authorization in response to an update signal from the AAA server.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the second step comprises:

transmitting an initialization request to the AAA server by booting the NAD;

receiving the authentication information of the channel authorization from the AAA server in response to the initialization request; and storing the received authentication information of the channel authorization.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the third step comprises:

a fifth step of the NAD performing the authentication of the STB with respect to the requested channel using the stored authentication information of the channel authorization in response to the channel request from the STB; and

a sixth step of, if the channel requested by the STB is a channel of which the STB has the authorization, switching the corresponding authorized channel to the STB.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the third step further comprises:

confirming by the NAD whether the STB uses the requested channel at predetermined intervals; and

if so, determining whether to continue the providing the service with respect to the requested channel based on the stored authentication information of the channel authorization.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the fourth step comprises:

a fifth step of, if the authentication information of the channel authorization update is detected, the NAD receiving update information of the authentication information of the channel authorization from the AAA server;

a sixth step of the NAD confirming the completion of the update by transferring a confirmation message to the AAA server; and a seventh step of replacing the authentication information of the channel authorization stored at the second step with the update information.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the fifth step occurs when the AAA server detects a change of the authentication information of the channel authorization.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the fifth step occurs when the AAA server detects an expiration of a predetermined update period.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the authentication information of the channel authorization includes a class indicative of a set of authorized channels in a broadcasting service, and a ticket indicative of an authorization given to a user.